

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH 0237

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: PRG PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS JANUARY 24

1. MR. DINH BA THI, ACTING HEAD OF THE VIET CONG DELEGATION TO THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD BILATERALS, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 24 TO MARK THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. MANY VIETNAMESE IN THE PARIS COMMUNITY ATTENDED, BUT ONLY A SMALL CONTINGENT FROM THE PRESS WAS THERE. THE OVERALL ATTENDANCE WAS NOT LARGE.

2. CHARACTERIZED LATER BY A WESTERN PRESS REPRESENTATIVE AS THE COMMUNISTS' "USUAL BOILERPLATE", THI'S REMARKS IMMODERATELY ATTACKED THE ROLE OF U.S. "IMPERIALISM" IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE, AND TRIED TO PAINT THE GVN AS A CORRUPT REGIME DISLIKED BY ITS PEOPLE. THI HANDED OUT FOUR DOCUMENTS: (A) A "PREFATORY STATEMENT" BY THI SHARPLY ATTACKING U.S. ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM, (B) A LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PRG CLAIMS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, (C) A DOCUMENT PUBLISHED PREVIOUSLY (SEE USDEL JEC 202L) ON "THE PARIS ACCORD ON VIETNAM TWO YEARS AFTER", AND (D) A SIXTEEN-PAGE "WHITE PAPER" ON THE "DEFENSE AND STRICT APPLICATION OF THE PARIS ACCORD

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ON VIETNAM". WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF ALL THESE ITEMS

TO DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON.

3. FOR SAIGON: IN RESPONSE YOUR 873, FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT C ABOVE:

(A) THE DOCUMENT IS HARDLY "VOLUMINOUS" AS THE INITIAL PRESS REPORT SUGGESTED, CONSISTING OF TWENTY PAGES. IT IS DIVIDED INTO EIGHT SECTIONS, THE MOST DETAILED OF WHICH ARE DEVOTED TO "VIOLATIONS" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY THE USG AND THE GVN.

(B) THE SECTIONS OUTLINING U.S. "VIOLATIONS" RELY HEAVILY ON STATEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS OF HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS AND OF CONGRESS, TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT TO MAKE THEM APPEAR AGGRESSIVE. THE MAIN THEME IS THAT THE USG CONTINUES TO "INTERFERE" IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THESE SECTIONS ALSO DRAW ON SLANTED INTERPRETATIONS OF RECENT U.S. ACTIONS, OR ALLEGED ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE SAILING OF THE USS MIDWAY AND THE AMERICAN FORCES "ALERT" ON OKINAWA.

(C) AS FOR THE CHARGES AGAINST THE GVN, THE DOCUMENT STRESSES ALLEGED BELLICOSE STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT THIEU AND PRIME MINISTER KHIEM. IT THEN PRESENTS A LITANY OF UNSUPPORTED STATISTICS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS. NOWHERE DOES THE DOCUMENT SPECIFY INSTANCES OF CEASEFIRE "VIOLATIONS" BY ARVN; BLANKET STATISTICS ON NUMBERS OF "ENCROACHMENT OPERATIONS", "AIR RAIDS", ETC. ARE GIVEN INSTEAD.

(D) THE DOCUMENTS WINDS UP WITH SECTIONS ON U.S. AND GVN "DEFEATS" AND ON THE "LIBERATED ZONE", PLUS A BRIEF FINAL SECTION ON THE NEED FOR A "STRICT APPLICATION" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

WILLIAMS

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